

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 IO-12 EUR-25 COA-02 EB-11 OIC-04

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 ACDA-19 AEC-11

AGR-20 CG-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00

NSF-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /199 W
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R 261300 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3799

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0396

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR XA OAU MP

SUBJECT: LOS- OCAM AND OAU POSITIONS

REF: STATE 73822

1. AMBASSADOR SAW ATTORNEY GENERAL HEIN, CHIEF GOM LOS NEGOTIATOR, APRIL 26 ON REFTEL. EMPHASIZING US BELIEF AFRICAN STATES HAVE IMPORTANT ROLES PLAY IN LOS NEGOTIATIONS, AMBASSADOR SAID WE BELIEVE THEY SHOULD NOT JEOPARDIZE INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS BY ADOPTING HARD REGIONAL LOS POSITION. FLEXIBILITY WOULD CONTINUE BE IMPORTANT IN OVERALL LOS CONTEXT. WE BELIEVE EMERGING GLOBAL CONSENSUS ON LOS ISSUES SHOULD BE CONFIRMED WHERE IT ALREADY EXISTS AND DOOR KEPT OPEN ON CRITICAL ISSUES THAT REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED.

2. HEIN SAID FULLY UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION. HOWEVER, ON BASIS REPORT FROM HIS STAFF ON RECENT OAU EXPERTS MEETING, HE EXPECTED OAU SUMMIT WOULD COME OUT IN FAVOR 12 MILE LIMIT TERRITORIAL SEA AND 200 MILE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE. AMBASSADOR NOTED THIS WOULD TIE HANDS AFRICANS AT LATER LOS MEETINGS. AFTER CONSIDERABLE
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DISCUSSION, HEIN EXPRESSED VIEW OAU MIGHT NOT COME UP WITH FORMAL RESOLUTION. AMBASSADOR SAID HE HOPED THIS WOULD BE OUTCOME AND SAID HE KNEW GOM HAD INFLUENCE BEHIND SCENES WHICH COULD BE EMPLOYED POSITIVELY. HEIN AGREED, BUT CITED UNPREDICTABILITY AFRICAN HEADS STATE.

3. HEIN ALSO NOTED LOS ISSUES CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED OCAM LEGAL COMMITTEE HERE. WHILE HE EXPECTED OCAM ACTION MIGHT BE LIMITED DETAILED ECHANGE OF VIEWS, OUTCOME COMMITTEE SESSIONS WOULD NOT BE KNOWN FOR SOME DAYS AMBASSADOR REMARKED USG WOULD FAVOR MAINTENANCE MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY ON PART INDIVIDUAL OCAM MEMBERS. HEIN COMMENTED REGIONAL POSITIONS NOT NECESSARILY AS UNFORTUNATE AS MIGHT APPEAR. NUMBER OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES FAVORED EXTREME LIMITS TERRITORIAL SEA, AND ADOPTION REALISTIC 12 MILES PLUS 200 MILES BY OAU MIGHT IN THIS CONTEXT REPRESENT POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION. AMBASSADOR REITERATED OUR VIEW REGIONAL MEETINGS SHOULD AVOID FIRM RESOLUTIONS WHICH WOULD INHIBIT ESSENTIAL SUBSEQUENT FLEXIBILITY.

4. COMMENT: WHILE HEIN FULLY APPRECIATES USG VIEWS, HIS COMMENTS SUGGEST OAU AGREEMENT ON EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE COULD WELL BE IN CARDS. THIS CONNECTION, CURRENT OCAM SECGEN' S REPORT REFERS OAU EXAMINATION LOS ISSUES AND CALLS FOR APPROVAL OCAM COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS LOS RECOMMENDATIONS. THESE INCLUDE GENERALIZED REFERENCES TO NEED FOR LIMITS TERRITORIAL SEA AND CREATION ECONOMIC ZONE BEYOND, BUT MILEAGE FIGURDS UNMENTIONED.
BREWER

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